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March 6, 2001

Linda Smallwood, PhD., Executive Secretary
Blood Products Advisory Committee
Office of Blood Research & Review
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA
1401 Rockville Pike, HFM-302
Rockville, MD 20852-1448

Dear Dr. Smallwood:

On behalf of America's Blood Centers, I would like to address the Blood Products Advisory Committee on March 15th. I plan to speak for approximately 5 minutes on each of the following three topics:

- The comparative sensitivity of hepatitis B Virus nucleic acid testing versus hepatitis B Surface Antigen testing;
- The implementation of nucleic acid testing for HIV and HCV; and
- Blood bags for diversion of the initial collection.

Copies of ABC's statements accompany this letter.

I waive confidentiality of the data contained in these presentation materials and grant FDA the authority to release these presentation materials to the public through electronic and/or other means deemed appropriate.

Yours Truly,

Celso Bianco, M.D.
Executive Vice President